NEW BOOKS

Continued from Seventh Page.

The & Becketts of Punch" (E. P. Dutton It is his own self that Mr. à Beckett renembers best. He has something to say of his father, to be sure, though the specimens he gives of his humor are unfilially

bad, and he remembers, before he closes his book, that he also had a brother who wrote for Punch. The book is mainly about himself and the persons he met. He has not the excuse of age for his garrulity, and much that he relates has little point, but in the course of his professional career of humor he met with a great many interesting persons, from Leech and Tenniel and Thackeray and Dickens to Mr. Burnand and the present staff, so that his egotistical chatter is entertaining enough.

Lashing the Law and the Lawyers. There is so much that is good and well written in Mr. Frederick Trevor Hill's "The Web" (Doubleday, Page & Co.) that if it were the author's first book we should say that it was very promising. It is his third book, however, and in spite of his vigorous descriptive power it begins to look as though Mr. Hill needed a collaborator to hold him down to his plot and to the point he sets out to make.

The book opens with a stirring court scene which, so far as we can see, leads up to nothing. We are led to expect a contrast between a manly, honest lawyer and several types of trickiness, but, except for the author's approval of his hero, we are unable to discern that in methods, in conduct or in sense of honor he differs at all from those held up to our reprobation. We should be sorry to believe that no higher type can be found in New York city.

An exciting, melodramatic cross-examination later in the book smacks more of the stage than of the courts, but is very effective all the same. The lawsuit which holds the parts of the story together, and which serves to excite the reader's indignation, is allowed to dwindle away, which may be true to life, but is not true to art We doubt, too, whether the reader will attach as much importance to the divorce entanglement as the characters do. A little more common sense and a good deal less gush, particularly on the part of the lawyers, would have saved trouble. There is a prover babout a lawyer who has himself for a client that applies here.

So with the murder story. The flat into which every one may enter without detection is familiar in farce comedy adapted from the French. Does it belong to real life? The intrusion of the process server as the deus ex machina is a strain on the reader's credulity, but the love business in the deathbed scene comes pretty close

Such as it is, nevertheless, the story is exciting and holds the reader's attention. Mr. Hill has the gift of narration and each separate incident seems plausible for the that he cannot sketch out the whole picture he means to paint and then stick closely

#### Old Time Illustrated Books.

We are somewhat puzzled as to what connects the pretty little red volumes that the Appletons reprint in a series. At first we thought it was a set of sporting books; from the nine volumes before us, though, we suspect that the pictures form the criterion, and we shall classify the books according to the artists.

First comes a charming reprint of "Esop's Fables" in facsimile, with Thomas Bewick's designs on wood. Next the "Illustrations", of the Book of Job," by William Blake, in reduced facsimile, but with very clear and good plates. Of Rowlandson's work we ave "The Second Tour of Doctor Syntax," with the colored illustrations, and the more ambitious "The English Dance of Death,"

There are two famous books of William Harrison Ainsworth, "The Tower of London" and "Windsor Castle," both profusely illustrated with plates and woodcuts by George Cruikshank. Then there are two Tales" (Charles Scribner's Sons). All are more sporting books, with Henry Aiken's | readable, but the tales of blood and horror colored pictures, "The Annals of the Hunting are far better than the lighter ones. This

It will be seen that these interesting reprints meet a variety of tastes. The books | and strikes us as being the best in the were all famous in their day in different ways and appear now in very attractive

#### The Moth Book.

Naturalists will welcome with joy Dr W. J. Holland's long expected "The Moth Book" (Doubleday, Page & Co.). It is a worthy companion to his "The Butterfly Book" issued five years ago by the same publishers, having the like brevity of description, compact method and wealth of colored plates and wood cuts.

Laymen who regard moths simply as destructive pests and know that they are legion will be interested to learn that even the varieties are counted by thousands and that Dr. Holland has not attempted to include them all in his book. He has selected "those species that would adequately represent the various families and the commoner and more important genera, thus providing a work which might serve as an introduction to the study." He has provided chapters on "the life history and anatomy of moths," on their capture and preservation, and on their olassification, together with a bibliography. Then follow the classified lists of moths, interspersed with essays and poems about

In mechanical execution the book is very handsome, a credit to the publishers, author and illustrators. It will be sought by many interested in nature as well as scientific

#### A Good Little History of Mexico.

A useful, interesting and well written little history of Mexico is hidden under the inappropriate title "From Empire to Republic," by Arthur Howard Noll (A. C. McClurg & Co.). The story covers the period from the assertion of Mexico's independence to the accession of President Diaz. It limits itself to Mexico and so supplies within its moderate compass a deal of information that it is hard to find without much hunting about. It is a model of its kind and we should be grateful if we had an equally convenient account of every one of the Latin-American re-

#### W. Haziitt Complete.

The edition of the "Collected Works of William Hazlitt," in twelve volumes, published by J. M. Dent & Co. in London and McClure, Phillips & Co. in New York, is likely to be definitive. On the one hand it has been edited with great cane and disoretion by A. R. Waller and Arnold Glover. a task of much difficulty, considering the character of Hazlitt's work and the manner of its first publication. The notes are limited to what is strictly necessary, as they should be. The names of the publishers are a guarantee that the books are beauti-

On the other hand, Hazlitt shows the misfortune of all critics, that he appeals to a somewhat restricted class of readers.

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#### THE TWENTIETH CENTURY EXPOSITION

IN NEW YORK IN 1909. Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Arrival of Hendrick Hudson.

In an article on The Wonders of New York in 1909 Mr. John Brisben Walker explains in the December Cosmopolitan the educational, industrial and commercial advantages to be derived by the holding of such an exposition in 1909, and shows how the appropriation of but live millions by the City of New York would not only cause the expenditure of not less than forty millions on Manhattan Island during the continuance of the exposition, but leave a permanent impress upon her industries and the intelligence of her workmen. The article also attempts to forecast, by reasoning along past decades in the city's growth, the advance of the city and its development in the twenty most important lines of progress.

reat as his authority was and still is with tudents of English literature, the general eader will prefer to limit himself to selections from his works. There is little likelihood, therefore, that another complete edition will be undertaken again soon. To libraries, to teachers and students of English, and to those who have acquired the Hazlitt taste, this edition, consequently will be invaluable. It is superior beyond comparison to any preceding one, for a disinguishing mark of Hazlitt's grandson, he latest reviser, was carelessness

A distinct addition to the literature of apothegms in English is found in "Glimpses of Truth," by the Right Rev. J. L. Spalding, Bishop of Peoria (A. C. McClurg & Co.). Every one of Bishop Spalding's reflections contains an idea that will make others think too, a quality that even the famous French moralists do not always possess. While most of the thoughts are spiritual and ethical, there are plenty of epigrams among them. At the end are wo short, broad-minded essays on Epicte-

tus and Marcus Aurelius. Catholic moral theory is expounded clearly, thoroughly and practically in a series of articles that first appeared in moment. With that power it seems a pity the Catholic Transcript of Hartford and are now collected under the title "Moral Briefs," by the Rev. John H. Stapleton (The Catholic Transcript, Hartford). The explanation given about many points of morals should dissipate much Protestant error concerning Catholic belief.

#### The First Cable.

For the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the laving of the first Atlantic cable Mr. Charles Bright has written a very full account of that enterprise in "The Story of the Atlantic Cable" (Appletons). Cables have become such a commonplace that it is just as well for the present generation to read of the sensation the first cable created, of its failure and of the long interval before the second and lasting cable took its place. The book is well written by an expert engineer, and is a valuable little

Tragedy and comedy share equally in th eight stories provided by Mr. A. T. Quiller Couch in "Two Sides of the Face. Midwinter may be due to the author's affecting an antique form in narrating the latter. The first story "Stephen of Steen's," is the longest volume. That may be because it is the longest, for Mr. Quiller-Couch is deliberate and requires space to do himself justice.

One of the earliest of modern travellers n Italy who have kept accounts of their mpressions and adventures, and one of he most important, is Michel de Montaigne. The Journal of Montaigne's Travels in Italy in 1580 and 1581" is newly translated by Mr. W. G. Waters and published in three pretty little volumes by E. P. Dutton & Co. The only omission is the account of some of Montaigne's physical symptoms while he was taking the baths at Lucca. The book is illustrated with contemporary pictures and plans of towns.

About ten years ago Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites of the University of Wisconsin rowed down the Ohio River from a point on the Monongahela to Cairo in an open boat with his wife and boy and a friend. He published an account of the journey under the title "Afloat on the Ohio," and now reprints it with the far less appropriate title "On the Storied Ohio" (A. C. McClurg Co.), which was suggested by his pubishers. It is a pleasing story of an interesting trip and is accompanied by a historical account of every place that was passed on the way. That means a great ieal of picturesque history.

It is not Scotsmen alone who will be attracted to Mr. Alexander Wallace's compined monograph and anthology on "The Heather in Lore, Lyric and Lay" (A. T. De La Mare Printing and Publishing Company, New York). To a clear account of the botany and distribution of the heather and the uses to which it is put, with an interesting description of the places where t is found in America, are joined the story of the heather in legend and history, and a great many poems in which it is celebrated. An excellent and complete bit of work. It is difficult to believe that Dr. Walter

Dill Scott is serious in applying philosophical terminology and principles in "The Theory of Advertising" (Small, Maynard & Co.). he more so as the business side of his theory is rather prominent. Dr. Scott, however, s director of the psychological laboratory of Northwestern University, and we have found out that from such laboratories anything may be expected and that Western professors are nothing if not progressive. The theory of how to catch and retain the attention of the public may or may not be ound scientifically, but Dr. Scott undoubtedly gives advertisers valuable suggestions and warns them against common

aining. A temperate, unprejudiced statement of what happened at Kishineff has been written by Mr. Michael Davitt in "Within the Pale" A. S. Barnes & Co.). As may be imagined, Mr. Davitt was not likely to sympathize

mistakes. His book is thoroughly enter-

Continued on Ninth Page.

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A Catholic Comment on Helen Gould's Prize Offer.

James J. Walsh, M. D., who is delivering a series of lectures at the Catholic Club, under the auspices of the Catholic Summer School, on the general subject of "The Eve of the Reformation," said at the open-

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THE METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE'S Christmas Number is "out of print." With the exception of a few copies in the hands of those newsdealers who ordered an extra supply early in the week, none of the December issue is now obtainable. The January METROPOLI-TAN will be an even more attractive holiday number and will be on sale

We printed of the Christmas number of

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200,000 copies. This edition was believed to be large enough to supply all demands up to Christmas week. The entire edition was bought up within a week after publication day.

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M. & L. Hess have leased for the United States Trust Company, as trustees, the property at 12 West Twenty-third street and 1 West Twenty-econd street to Solomon Tim, for fifteen years from May 1, 1905

The house will be removated, and a new front and elevators will be put in at a cost of \$40,000. The transaction involves a rental of \$1,000,000. It was in the Twenty-third street house that Benjamin Nathan of the Stock Exchange was murdered on July 29, 1870. The murder was one of the great mysteries of the time, and has never been cleared up.

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